

COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL
ON
4TH MARCH, 1930.

By

The Hon. FRANK ANSTEY, M.P.,
Minister for Health for the Commonwealth.

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ORDER OF PROCEEDING.

The Honorable the Minister will take the chair at 3 o'clock.

The Director-General of Health will make a statement of the history and purposes of the School.

The Chancellor of the University.

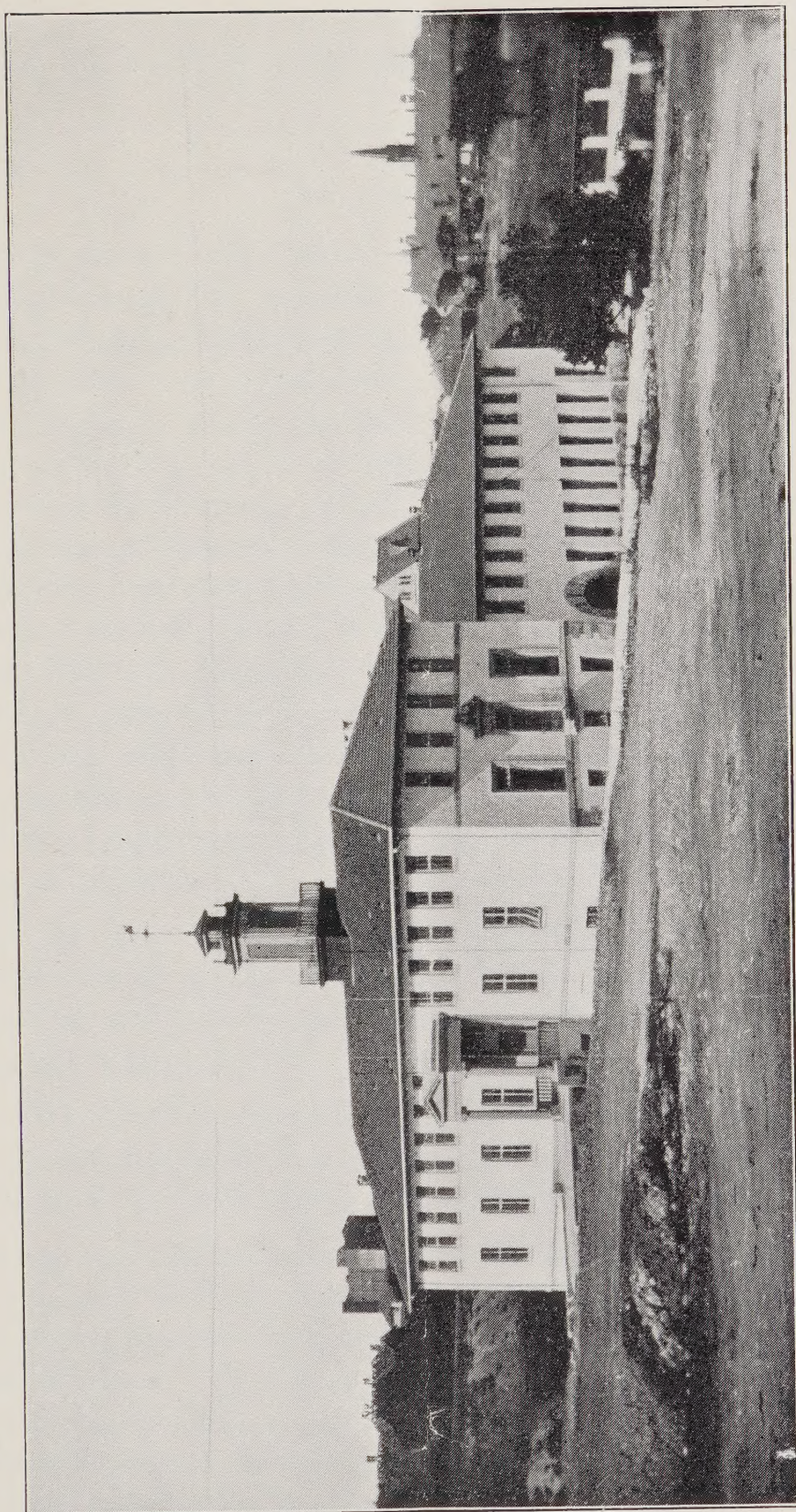
The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

The Honorable the Minister for Health for New South Wales, Hon. Dr. Richard Arthur.

The Honorable the Minister for Health for the Commonwealth will declare the School open.

Afternoon tea.

An exhibition of Health Films.



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE, SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE.

4TH MARCH, 1930.

The School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine now being opened represents the inevitable meeting point of two converging currents in medical education in Australia. The development of public health education, and of the study of tropical medicine in the Commonwealth, began almost simultaneously about 23 years ago. Since that time the universities of Sydney and Melbourne have issued Diplomas in Public Health and all three medical schools in Australia have paid special attention to the training of the medical undergraduate in preventive medicine. The movement which culminated in the founding of the Institute of Tropical Medicine at Townsville began in 1907-8. Professor Anderson Stuart, of the University of Sydney, had proposed the establishment of a Department of Tropical Medicine in connexion with the Medical School of that University. Dr. Frodsham, Bishop of North Queensland, proposed that an Institute should be established at Townsville, and, eventually, Dr. Frodsham's scheme was adopted.

The School at Townsville began operations in 1909 under co-operative control, the Commonwealth Government, the Queensland Government, and the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, contributing to the expenses.

In 1911 the Commonwealth Government assumed control at first under the Department of External Affairs. In 1921 the administration of the Institute was passed to the Commonwealth Department of Health.

During the 21 years of active work, progress in preventive medicine and in tropical medicine has been great. The tropical diseases of Australia have been identified and the means for their control in many aspects indicated. The important question of the adaptability of white persons to industrial life in tropical Australia has been studied, and the answer given on the evidence now available; it is known that there is no evidence which indicates that the development of tropical Australia by a purely white population is impracticable or even difficult.

The great advances in medical science during the succeeding ten years, and the radical changes brought about by the War, inspired a review of the whole question of the prevention of disease. The position was considered at the Conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers in 1919, and, ultimately, the preliminary examination of the question resulted in the appointment, in 1925, of the Royal Commission on Health.

This Royal Commission adopted the suggestion of the Commonwealth Director-General of Health and recommended the establishment of a School of Preventive Medicine and Tropical Hygiene at the Sydney University.

The reasons for the establishment of the School were found to be the rapid development of the science of preventive medicine, and the existing necessity for medical graduates to proceed abroad to obtain proper training in public health. The words of the Report of the Commission might be quoted :—

“ That the success of health administration is more dependent on the personality and capability of the officers directing it than on any other single factor has been impressed on us very strongly during our inquiries. We are satisfied that a greater number of experts highly trained in public health is needed in Australia. Facilities for training these experts in Australia are very inadequate and ought to be increased. The responsibility of the Commonwealth to the Mandated Territories makes it essential that adequate training should be provided by the Commonwealth for the medical officers who will be required for duty in these Territories. One feature in the work of Schools of Tropical Medicine or Hygiene should be the collection and condensation of the records of the medical administration of the Pacific Islands.”

The Conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers of Health, which met in July, 1926, decided that the Commonwealth should take steps towards the establishment of such a school.

In December, 1926, a Conference was held at Melbourne, which had important relationships with this proposed school. The Commonwealth Government had invited the League of Nations and the

powers having territorial interests in and around the Pacific Ocean to send fully accredited representatives to a Conference to consider the health problems of the island groups of the Pacific. This Conference defined an Austral-Pacific Zone as being that section of the earth's surface South of the Equator and between the degrees of longitude 140° East and 140° West.

The Commonwealth Government was asked to arrange for the collection and distribution of epidemiological intelligence within this Zone, and for an effective exchange of information with the epidemiological intelligence centres at Singapore, Geneva, Alexandria and Washington. Additionally, steps were taken towards the organization of research on a co-operative basis throughout this Zone. The League of Nations appointed a Mission to survey the Health Conditions in the Pacific Islands. This Mission, in its report, indicated directions in respect of research and exchange of information in which the school could render valuable service in association with the medical administrations of the Pacific Island groups.

The school, which is now being opened, represents the culmination of these various movements; its erection has been made possible by agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the Senate of the University of Sydney. This agreement may be summarized thus :—The University has made available the land upon which the building is erected, and will control the courses of instruction, discipline, examinations, fees, and the award of diplomas. The University also has reserved the right of approval of the appointment of all teaching staff.

The cost of the school, directed towards the training of medical graduates for the Diploma in Public Health and the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, as well as toward research into problems of health and tropical hygiene, will be borne by the Commonwealth Government.

The Commonwealth Minister for Health, under whose control the school will operate, will be assisted by an Advisory Council, consisting of the Commonwealth Director-General of Health as Chairman, two members appointed by the Minister, and two members nominated by the Chancellor of the University.

ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Chairman :

J. H. L. CUMPSTON, C.M.G., M.D., D.P.H.

Members appointed by the Minister for Health for the Commonwealth :

F. S. HONE, B.A., M.B., B.S.,

Lecturer on Preventive Medicine, University of Adelaide.

E. ROBERTSON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Chief Health Officer, Victoria.

Members nominated by the Chancellor of the University of Sydney :

R. S. WALLACE, M.A., LL.D.,

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney.

Professor J. C. WINDEYER, M.D., M.R.C.S.,

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sydney.

STAFF.

Director :

HARVEY SUTTON, O.B.E., M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.,

Lecturer in Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Sydney.

Deputy Director (Tropical Medicine) :

A. H. BALDWIN, M.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. and H.

Deputy Director (Bacteriology and Pathology) :

W. C. SAWERS, D.S.O., M.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Lecturer in Parasitology :

G. A. M. HEYDON, M.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. and H.

Lecturer in Entomology :

F. H. TAYLOR.

Technical Assistants :

J. W. FIELDING ; A. J. BEARUP ; S. C. LYON.

Clerk :

G. DENNES.

Typist :

MISS J. M. JAMIESON.

Laboratory Assistants :

K. J. CLINTON ; G. BRINDLE.

Assistant :

P. J. E. CLAFFEY.



